

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0001  
PH (916) 319-2001  
FAX (916) 319-2101

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
50 D STREET, SUITE 450  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404  
PH (707) 576-2526  
FAX (707) 576-2297

311 N. STATE STREET  
UKIAH, CA 95482  
PH (707) 463-5770  
FAX (707) 463-5773

235 4TH STREET, SUITE C  
EUREKA, CA 95501  
PH (707) 445-7014  
FAX (707) 445-6607

# Assembly California Legislature



**PATTY BERG**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES:**

AGING & LONG-TERM CARE, CHAIR  
BUDGET SUB #1,  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, CHAIR  
BUDGET  
HEALTH  
INSURANCE

November 20, 2008

Doug Bosco, Chair  
Attn: Michael Bowen  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

**RE: Support for the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program's Fish Passage and Water Quality Improvement Planning Grant request**

Dear Chairman Bosco: *Doug*

I am pleased to offer my support for the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program in their application for funding the design and permitting of fish passage and water quality improvement projects in the counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Trinity, and Siskiyou.

The proposed projects will allow for design and permitting to be completed on at least ten fish passage improvement projects and five sediment reduction projects in Northwestern California. The Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program has had great success in completing projects over the past ten years that have measurably and demonstrably increased and improved coastal salmon habitat quality and quantity. This grant would further those goals, expediting the recovery of quality habitat in our coastal watersheds.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program's application. It has been a pleasure to work with the Commission over the past six years and I know my District appreciates your support for this and many previous projects. Thank you.

Respectfully,

PATTY BERG  
Assemblywoman, 1<sup>st</sup> District

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**COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.**





State of California – The Resources Agency

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

NORTHERN REGION  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 225-2300



November 21, 2008

Doug Bosco, Chair  
Attn: Michael Bowen  
California Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Chairman Bosco:

**Support for the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program's Fish Passage and Water Quality Improvement Planning Grant request**

The California Department of Fish and Game, Northern Region strongly supports the request by the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program (5C) to the Coastal Conservancy for funding the design and permitting of at least ten fish passage and five water quality improvement projects in the counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Trinity, and Siskiyou. This preliminary engineering work will facilitate the implementation of priority fish passage improvement and sediment reduction projects within the Program Area.

The 5C Program is an official association of the five northwestern California counties within the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) coho salmon Evolutionary Significant Unit, listed as "threatened" under the state and federal Endangered Species Act. The five counties share the common goal of protecting the economic and social resources of northwestern California by providing for the conservation and restoration of salmonid populations to healthy and sustainable levels while basing decisions on watershed rather than County boundaries.

One element of the 5C is the migration barrier removal program. It began with an inventory of barriers on County maintained roads in the 5C Program Area, conducted from 1998 to 2004, which identified 245 passage barriers to adult and juvenile salmonids. The identified barriers were ranked in priority using site-specific information weighed heavily towards the biological considerations of anadromous salmonids. Since 1998, 53 projects have been completed, allowing access to 130 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for coho and Chinook salmon and coastal cutthroat and steelhead trout in priority watersheds within the 5C Program Area.

*Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870*





Chairman Bosco  
November 21, 2008  
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Another 5C element is the sediment reduction and water quality improvement program. Similar to the migration barrier inventory, an assessment of county road related sediment sources is in the process of being completed. A Direct Inventory of Roads and Treatments (DIRT) inventory has been conducted on all county roads in Mendocino, Trinity and Del Norte counties with partial inventories completed in Humboldt and Siskiyou counties. The DIRT identifies specific sites along county roads that contribute sediment to waterways and prioritizes treatments to assure economic, biological, and management effectiveness. Since 2001, eleven projects have been completed, effectively reducing the potential for 45,287 cubic yards of sediment delivery to anadromous streams from county road sources.

The primary objective of all projects is the restoration of aquatic ecosystems that support anadromous salmonids and other sensitive wildlife species. This is done by improving upstream fish passage with the added benefit of reducing sediment aggradation above the crossings and improving channel morphology; improving road related drainage by making road systems as hydrologically neutral as possible while maintaining safe driving conditions for the public; training county engineering, permitting, and road crew staff in the various methods and best management practices for implementing the above treatments and projects. Both the fish passage and water quality improvement projects contribute to the larger restoration efforts occurring within watersheds and improve infrastructure, resulting in reduced maintenance costs and emergency response efforts during storm events.

The 5C Program, the Department of Fish and Game, the California Coastal Conservancy, the State Water Board, NOAA Fisheries, and various watershed groups have worked closely to design and implement numerous projects during the past 10 years. We believe the potential project benefits to fish and wildlife and to the people of California as a result of implementing future projects will be significant.

The California Department of Fish and Game, Northern Region Fisheries staff looks forward to working with the 5C Program to prioritize the locations of the stream crossings selected for preliminary engineering and the watersheds selected for sediment reduction projects within the Program Area.. We urge the Coastal Conservancy to support the Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program's funding request for the design of future fish passage and water quality improvement projects. If you have any questions please call Senior Biologist Supervisor Gary Flosi at 707-725-1072.

Sincerely,

  
for **GARY B. STACEY**  
Regional Manager

ec: Messrs. Gary Flosi, Mark Stopher, and Steve Turek  
[gflosi@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:gflosi@dfg.ca.gov), [mstopher@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:mstopher@dfg.ca.gov), [sturek@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:sturek@dfg.ca.gov)

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